



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1995

No. 72

Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, May 1, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chaplain will now deliver the morning prayer.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass . . . Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.—Psalm 37:5, 7.

Gracious Lord, Your spirit is impinging on us, hovering all around us, ready to enter into us and give us power to live this day to the fullest. You have shown us that commitment is the key to open the floodgate and receive the inflow of Your incredible resources for living with peak performance today. Remind us that there is enough time and You will provide enough strength to do what You have called us to accomplish today. You never intended that we carry either the burdens or the opportunities of leadership alone.

May this day be one of constant conversation with You. Lord, help us to listen to You as You give us Your insight, discernment, wisdom, and vision. Help us to picture and claim Your best for our lives, the people around us and our Nation. Focus our attention on Your solutions to our problems. We commit this day to be a day in which we work with freedom and with joy. Thank You in advance for supernatural power.

In the name that is above every name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this morning, the leader time has been reserved, and there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 10:15 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

At 10:15 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 956, the product liability bill.

At that time, there will be 60 minutes of debate to be equally divided between the two managers. At the hour of 11:15, the Senate will begin a series of stacked votes on or in relation to second-degree amendments to the Dole amendment. Further rollcall votes can be expected today, and the Senate may be in session into the evening to make progress on the product liability bill.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein.

THE AGENDA AND OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to continue our dialog that we, the freshmen, have had seeking to talk about the agenda, to talk about the opportunities that we have for the first time in 40 years to have a real oppor-

tunity to take a look at the programs that have been in place, programs that have simply been added to over a period of time, programs, obviously that had merit in the beginning, have some merit yet. But we have an opportunity to look at them, to look at ways to make them more effective and more efficient.

We have an opportunity to respond to voters who, I think, in November said we want change, we need to make a change in Government. I think one of the measures of good Government is whether or not Government is responsive to the kinds of messages that we receive from voters.

We want to take an opportunity to make Government programs work better. I think, unfortunately, there sometimes is a perception when you talk about change that those who want change simply want to toss out the programs and do nothing. That is not the case. The case is how do we do a better job of providing services to people? How do we be more effective?

Welfare is an excellent example. No one is talking about throwing women and children and welfare fathers out on the street. What we are talking about is helping people to help themselves, find a way to be more efficient and to put people back into the workplace. That is what we are talking about.

So we are talking about bringing the Government closer to the people—block grants to the States, moving more responsibilities to the States—so people can participate more in their Government.

I do not think there is any question but what the voters in November said we want less Government and it should be less costly, that Government is too big and Government is too expensive.

So, Mr. President, that is the kind of agenda that the 11 of us who are new to this body would like to pursue. Those are the kinds of things that we believe

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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